

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question: Who participates in the VIEW program?

Answer: Parents who are able to work, whose children are at least 18 months old, and who are receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are required to participate. Exempt families can participate in VIEW on a voluntary basis. Exempt parents are those who have a child under the age of 18 months and those who are unable to work at least 8 hours per week.

Question: Does VIEW pay for training and education?

Answer: YES. A customized service plan that may include job skills training or education is developed for each participant.

Question: Does the VIEW program help parents find a job?

Answer: YES. Job developers and case managers help participants with specific job leads. Other services offered to help parents find jobs include job fairs, recruitment events and targeted placement.

Question: Do individuals have to work to participate in the VIEW program?

Answer: The first 90 days of participation are dedicated to job readiness, issue identification, problem solving, career planning and job search. After that, individuals must be in a work activity. The work activity may be employment or a combination of employment, volunteer work, education or training. The ultimate goal is full-time employment and the ability to support the family by earning a living wage.

Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. The Fairfax County Department of Family Services VIEW program makes every effort to ensure the benefits of the VIEW program are available to all who are eligible, including people with disabilities. Program modifications are made to accommodate special needs.

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VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR EMPLOYMENT NOT WELFARE

Helping parents move from welfare to work

FAIRFAX COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES

The Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare (VIEW) supports the efforts of families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to achieve independence through employment. VIEW focuses on the participants strengths and provides services to help them overcome job-related challenges, as well as personal, medical and family challenges that affect employment.

The Fairfax County Department of Family Services (DFS) administers benefits under the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which provides temporary cash assistance to low-income families with children. Parents who receive this assistance, and are able to work, are required to participate in the VIEW program.

The VIEW program offers parents the assistance and resources needed to find and keep a job. An important aspect of the program is the strong support participants receive from their VIEW case manager, who focuses on each family's individual situation and works with them to support their goals of employment and independence.

VIEW program participants are offered the following services during their enrollment:

**Assessment and screening • Intensive job readiness workshops • Job search guidance
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes • Medical support • Child care • Transportation
Job skills training and education • Licenses for employment • Job placement, job fairs and recruitment events
Assistance in purchasing clothing, uniforms, shoes, equipment and tools for employment**

After 90 days in the program, VIEW participants must either:

**Obtain full-time or subsidized employment or
Have a combination of part-time employment, volunteer work, job skills training and educational activities.**

Key features and requirements of the VIEW program:

- Virginia TANF recipients who are able to work must participate in VIEW when their youngest child is 18 months of age or older.
- VIEW participants sign an agreement that documents their willing participation in the program and their acceptance of responsibility to work to achieve independence from welfare. **Participation in the VIEW program is a full-time commitment.**
- TANF eligibility is limited to 24-month periods for VIEW participants. Extensions may be granted for specified hardships. Federal law limits TANF assistance to a maximum of 60 months.
- VIEW participants who obtain employment may earn up to the federal poverty level and still receive TANF.
- Food Stamps and Medicaid can continue during periods when participants are not receiving TANF.

VIEW program support services:

Child Care: Available while parents are employed or participating in VIEW activities.

Transportation: Includes mileage reimbursement, bus tokens, Metro farecards and help with learning how to use the public transportation system. Car purchase and loan programs are also available.

Medical and Dental Services, not covered by Medicaid, that parents need to get or keep employment.

Food Stamps: Qualified participants receive Food Stamps during participation in the VIEW program, as well as transitional Food Stamps while working.

Screening and Evaluation for hidden disabilities. Referrals are made for treatment and special needs services.

Education: General Educational Development (GED) certificate and high school credentialing, ESOL classes, adult education and community college classes, job skills training.

Emergency Interventions: Urgent help with emergencies and crises that may impact employment.

Information about filing for child support, the Earned Income Tax Credit and local community services.



DISABILITY SERVICES: The Fairfax County Department of Family Services VIEW program makes every effort to ensure that the benefits of the VIEW program are available to all who are eligible, including people who have disabilities. Program modifications are made to accommodate special needs.